

church pageant. During the first few years, the troupe held practices once a week. They were asked to participate at many local festivals and church functions. At that time, the ensemble practiced at several places in Toledo including St. Anthony's, The Argonne Post, Polish Falcons, PNA Hall and the Lagrange-Central Center. Today, the group practices at the Polish Roman-Catholic Union of America (P.R.C.U.A.) hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Through the weekly practices, Paulina has instilled in her members a great sense of pride and love for Polish folk customs through dancing and singing. A nonprofit organization, the Echoes of Poland have performed at festivals and concerts throughout the United States and in Canada. In 1977, the ensemble traveled to Rzeszów, Poland for the Triennial World Festival of Polish Folk Dancers. One reviewer said, "By the end of the performance, everyone in the audience was tapping feet or clapping hand to the infectious rhythms." Since 1979, the group has staged their own concerts in the Toledo area to show our full repertoire of regional and national dances. During the mid-seventies, Mrs. Ortyl began a children group to train the young members for the adult ensemble. By starting at a young age, the children become familiar with many of the rudimentary skills in the art of song and dance. In 1980, a Kapela, a Polish band, was added. The dancers certainly enjoy dancing and singing to a live musician.

Because of Paulina's untiring drive and inspiration, the ensemble was awarded first prize from a field of 64 competitors at the Rzeszów, Polish Folk Festival in 1980. The ensemble won the highest honor for authentically portraying Polish Folk culture by performing the Dozynki, the Polish Harvest Celebration. The Ensemble has made the trip to the Rzeszów Festival seven times and always performs admirably.

Through the years, Paulina has received numerous proclamations, certificates, awards of appreciation and recognition for her outstanding contribution in the field of preserving one of the most endearing aspects of Polish culture; the traditional folk songs and dances from the several distinct regions in Poland.

For example, On October 16, 1983, The Echoes of Poland Folk Song & Dance Ensemble held their Fifteenth Anniversary. Mrs. Ortyl was honored for her dedication in perpetuating Polish culture among hundreds of youth in the Toledo area.

In 1996, WGTE Public Broadcasting was putting together a special on the Polish people of Toledo for their Cornerstones series entitled "The Polish in Toledo" and contacted Paulina about providing the music for this endeavor. Paulina got some musicians together and recorded all the folk music for this 41-minute tribute to the Poles in Toledo.

In 1997, The Ohio House of Representatives recognized the members of the Echoes of Poland for their valuable contribution to the preservation of our Polish culture through song and dance.

On January 16, 1999, the ensemble had the honor to welcome Lech Walesa, former leader of Solidarność and former President of Poland, to St. Adalbert for an informal meeting with the Polish community.

In the spring of 2002, Echoes of Poland celebrated their 35th anniversary. Paulina remains the sole choreographer and director of

the ensemble. Paulina was presented an appreciation award from P.R.C.U.A. and recognition award from Polish American Congress at the Annual Spring Concert for all her years of dedication.

The Echoes of Poland, under Paulina performed their first television show in America, "Polka Bandstand" in October 2004. They performed a suite of dances from the Lublin region and Kujawac Obarac to an enthusiastic live audience.

Therefore, it with sincere gratitude that I extend heartfelt congratulations to all Paulina has done to strengthen our community through the Echoes of Poland. I wish her unrelenting energy, enthusiasm and success as she continues her journey as being the director and choreographer of this most esteemed and talented group.

Sto Lat Paulina!

HONORING MONTICELLO'S STATE CHAMPION BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Monticello High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Monticello captured the Iowa Class 2A Cross Country Championship.

The Monticello team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 55 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Monticello runner Nate Dotterweich who finished the course in 15 minutes, 43 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Monticello Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Monticello proved just that.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY LAPIDUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sidney Lapidus and to congratulate him on receiving the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award. Mr. Lapidus' deep commitment to the American Jewish Historical Society has ensured that its collection is preserved and expanded for generations to come.

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University Law School, Sidney began his career as an attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York. A retired partner at Warburg Pincus LLC, one of the country's leading private equity firms, Sidney also serves on the Boards of Directors of Lennar Corporation, one of the Nation's largest homebuilders; Knoll Inc., a leading manu-

facturer of office furniture; and the Neiman Marcus Group, a leading upscale retailer.

Sidney contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes, several of which concern American history and Jewish affairs. He served as president of the American Jewish Historical Society from 2003 to 2007 and is now its chairman. He is a member of the advisory councils for Princeton University's History and Judaic Studies Departments. He is also a vice chairman of the American Antiquarian Society and is a trustee of the New York Historical Society. In other areas, he is chair of the United Neighborhood Houses of New York and a member of the Executive Committee of New York University School of Medicine.

Mr. Lapidus has balanced his distinguished career and philanthropic work with an equally impressive family life. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Harrison, NY. They have three married children—Gail, Janet and Roy—and six grandchildren—Sara, Eric, Kate, Henry, Jessica, and Zack. An avid skier, Sidney also collects British and American books about politics and economics from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Mr. Sidney Lapidus for a successful career in finance and unparalleled devotion to charitable causes. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

HONORING JON LESTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Jon Lester, a resident of Puyallup, Washington, for his bravery in surviving cancer and his achievements as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in Major League Baseball.

Jon graduated from Bellarmine Prep School in 2002. That same year, the Red Sox drafted him. He played for the Red Sox's minor league team, the Portland Sea Dogs.

In 2005, Jon led the league in strike-outs, was named the Eastern Pitcher of the Year, and was selected for the Eastern All-Star Team. The following year, Jon was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma and had to undergo chemotherapy. Following his treatment he returned to Major League Baseball in 2007. Lester was an integral component of the Red Sox's World Series victory, closing out the final game.

On the 19th of May, 2008, he threw a no-hitter against the Kansas City Royals. It was the first no-hitter since September 2007, and the first by a left-handed Red Sox player since 1956. Bowing to Jon's achievement, Kansas City manager Trey Hillman could only explain, "We're on the wrong part of history."

Jon also found time for philanthropic work for the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, the Boston Parks and Recreation summer program and the Boys and Girls Club of Chelsea, Massachusetts.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Jon's courage, his athletic gifts, and his deep concern for his community.